FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

8/8/2014

This newsletter is available weekly and previous issues are available at
http://lam.alaska.gov/fridaybulletin.

Submissions for the Friday Bulletin should be sent to linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov
and may be edited for content and length if used.

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NEWS FROM THE DIVISION

DOES YOUR INSTITUTION CROWDSOURCE? WE WANT TO KNOW!

The Institute for Museum and Library Services recently gave a grant to Tiltfactor Laboratory to:

> "… establish a Crowdsourcing Consortium for Libraries and Archives (CCLA), which will unite leading-edge technology groups in libraries and archives as well as humanities scholars across the United States in a conversation about best practices, shared toolsets, and strategies for using crowdsourcing. The consortium members will explore how institutions might best adopt and employ crowdsourcing strategies for use in collecting metadata, integrating data into existing collections, and increasing user engagement."

Crowdsourcing is the practice of getting a group of regular people to perform a task, usually online. Projects may be a straightforward – "please help us do _____" or put into game form. An example of the first is the Notes from Nature project building machine readable data from museum specimen cards. An example of the second is the suite of games available from Metadata Games that use games to generate tags for pictures, audio and video.

Does YOUR archives, library or museum have a crowdsourcing project? We'd like to know if there are current or planned crowdsourcing activities here in Alaska so we can judge Alaskan interest in this new consortium.

SLAM PROGRESS: DEMOLITION OF OLD MUSEUM BUILDING

As part of the ongoing construction process for the new Statewide Library Archives Museum (SLAM) project, our contractor began demolishing the decommissioned Alaska State Museum building in Juneau. Here are a few photos from the process taken by the Division's own Damon Stuebner:

Figure 1: August 1, 2014

Figure 2: August 5, 2014

As of this writing, the new SLAM building is expected to open in Spring 2016.

STUDENT RESOURCES IN CONTEXT NOW AVAILABLE ON SLED DATABASES

Thanks to a database trial coordinated by the Alaska Association of School Librarians (AkASL), the Statewide Databases Committee is pleased to announce the availability of Gale Student Resources in Context through the SLED Databases.

This resource provides up-to-date information from reference articles, magazine and newspaper articles. Also includes video and audio content from NBC, NPR and other news sources.

NEWS FROM L.A.M.S IN ALASKA

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM TO BE BUILT IN MINECRAFT

On Wednesday 8/13/2014, the Anchorage Museum will be completely rebuilt brick by brick – in Minecraft. This according to an event announcement from the museum. This will be an in-person event for people with laptops and their own Minecraft account.

For background on Minecraft, visit its Wikipedia article, particularly the applications section which explains several real-world applications for this environment.

MAKE YOUR OWN STOP MOTION MOVIES WITH FREE IOS APP

This week Homer Youth Librarian Claudia Haines brings us an app the whole family can enjoy:

> LEGO® Movie Maker by The LEGO Group
> iOS 5 +, iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch
> Free
>
> The LEGO® Movie Maker app is a user-friendly introductory tool for kids and teens who want to use stop motion animation as a storytelling tool, but have little or no experience with video production. Captured still images are stitched together by the app to create a short video with the click of the save button. The app includes title screen templates and the ability to customize both the title and director name(s). It also offers several background music choices and the option to add music from the device's music collection. There is no narration function so movie makers will rely on action or strategically placed text in the scene to tell the story.
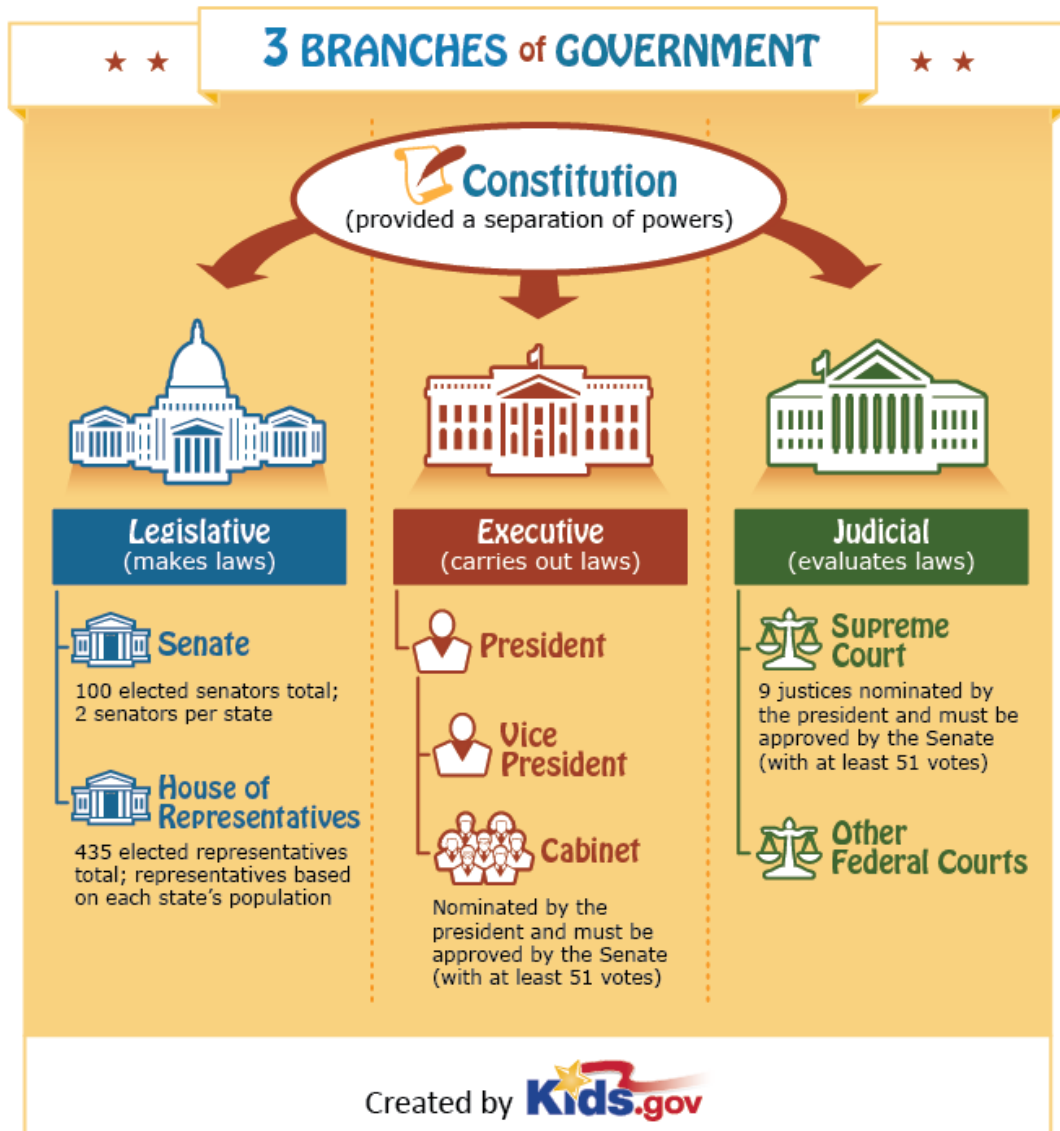>
> The app's overall ease of use would make this an excellent addition to a LEGO program in which young builders write a story, create the necessary elements of the story, and film it. Once the video is deemed finished, the final product can be downloaded to the device's camera roll and then shared with family and friends through email or posted online. While the app's developer intends for the videos to feature the extremely popular LEGO bricks, videos with any props or actors could be created. Technical notes: The app does not contain any online links or in-app marketing. Currently there is only a landscape option for the title screen, so the still images are best captured in landscape mode also to offer a smooth viewing experience.

If you have a free app that helps you or your patrons, drop us a line and we may feature it on the *Friday Bulletin*.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOWNLOADABLE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT POSTER

Kids.gov offers downloadable posters that teach kids the 3 branches of government & what they do. Posters are available at http://kids.usa.gov/three-branches-of-government/index.shtml and looks like:

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